

#1350860648

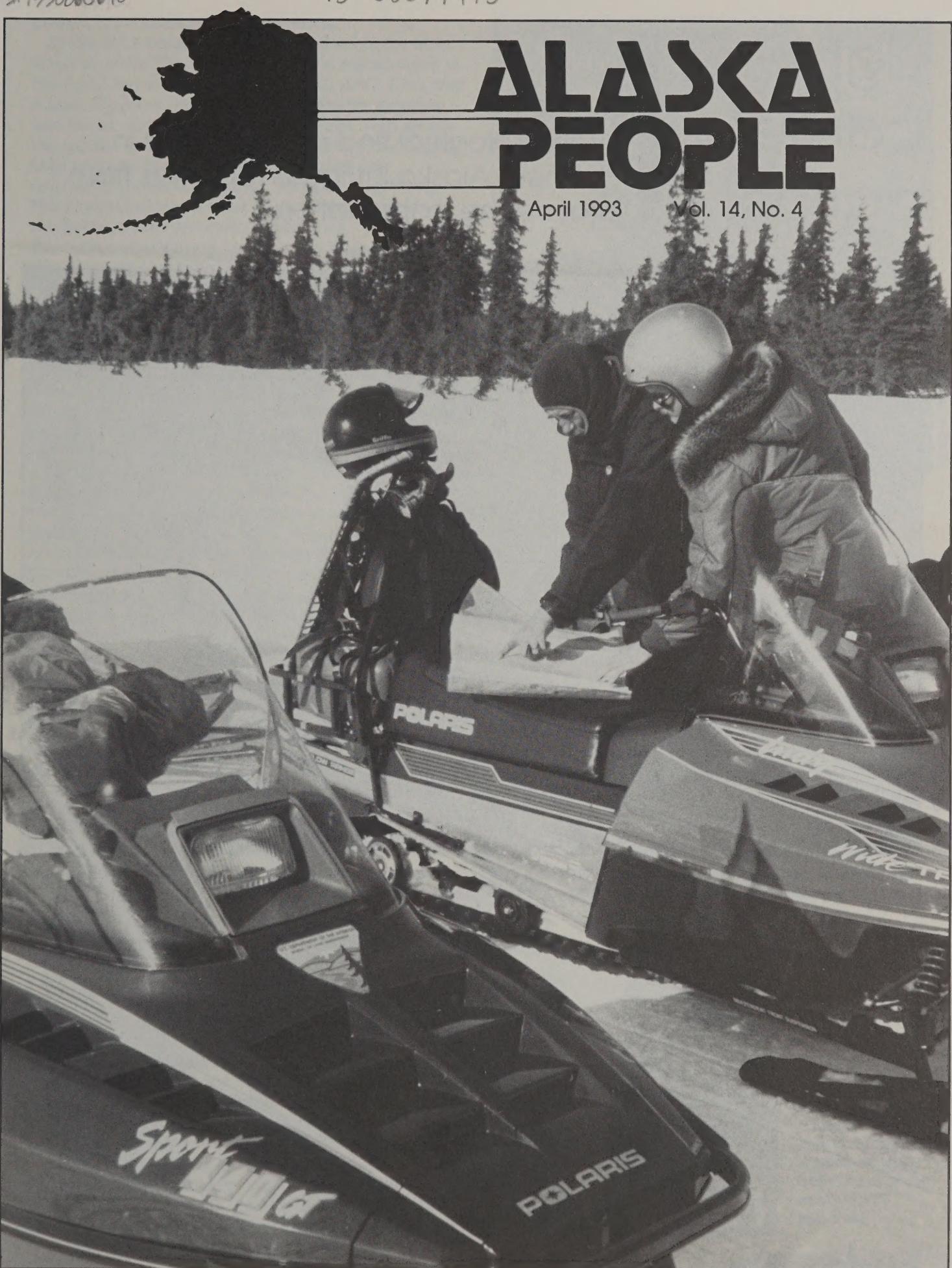
ID: 88077475

HD  
170  
A43  
v.14  
no.4

# ALASKA PEOPLE

April 1993

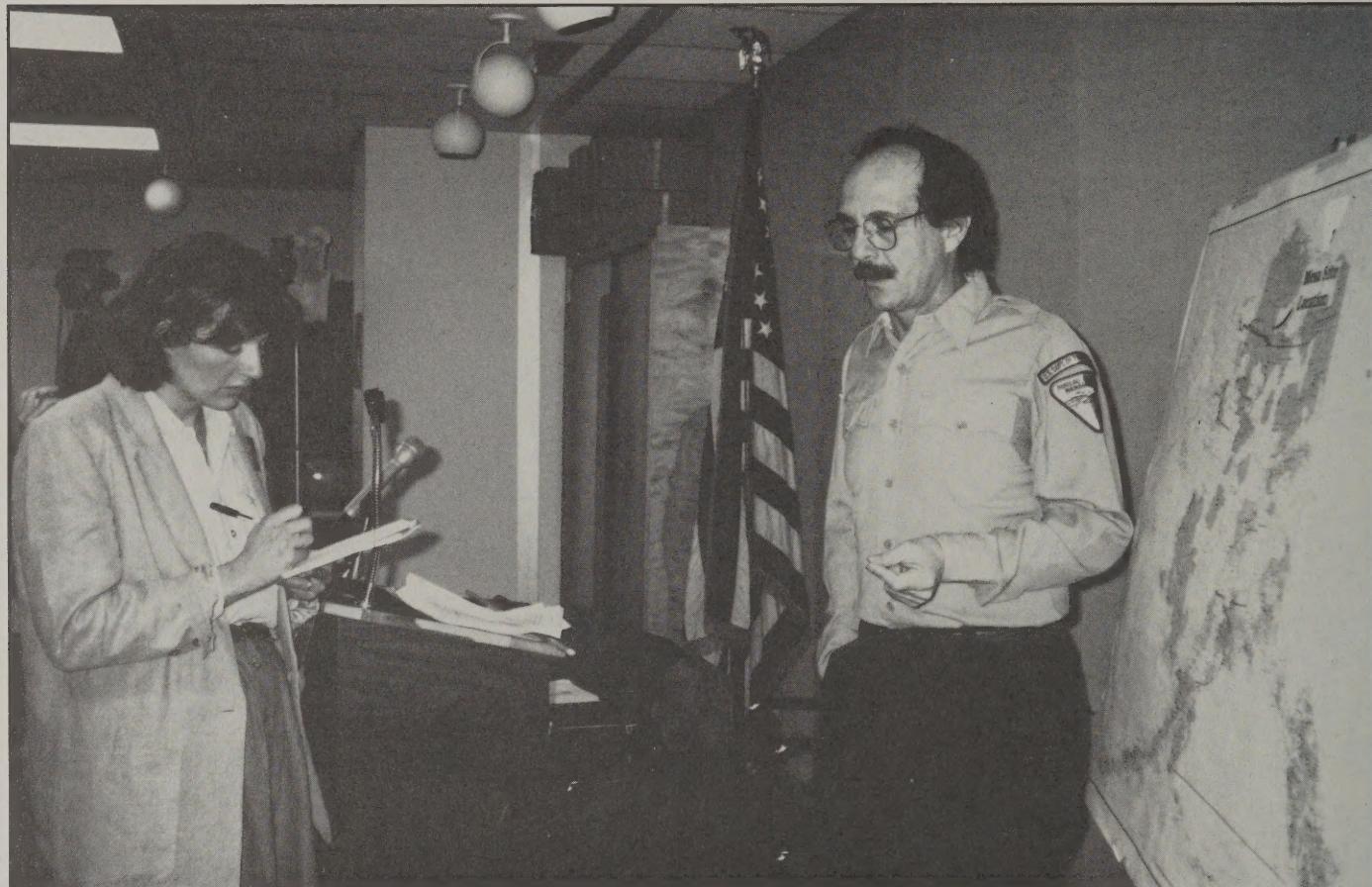
Vol. 14, No. 4



# Lights, camera, action!

Archaeological find on BLM lands in northern Alaska intrigues reporters from around the state, nation

Teresa McPherson



ASO archaeologist/land use planner Curtis Wilson answers questions for a reporter from the Associated Press following a March 24 press conference announcing a major archaeological find on BLM lands in the Brooks Range.

by Teresa McPherson

Is there a recipe for a successful press conference? Well, it helps to have three experienced archaeologists available to talk with reporters. And it also helps to have a topic that people can't resist—such as how artifacts unearthed on BLM lands in the Brooks Range are changing scientists' ideas of how the first people came to North America.

On March 24 at 10:00 a.m. local time, BLM conducted press conferences in Washington, D.C., Fairbanks and Anchorage as archaeologists described the significance of artifacts found on a mesa in the Brooks Range. The site is located about 150 miles north of the Arctic Circle, and may be one of the oldest well-documented sites of

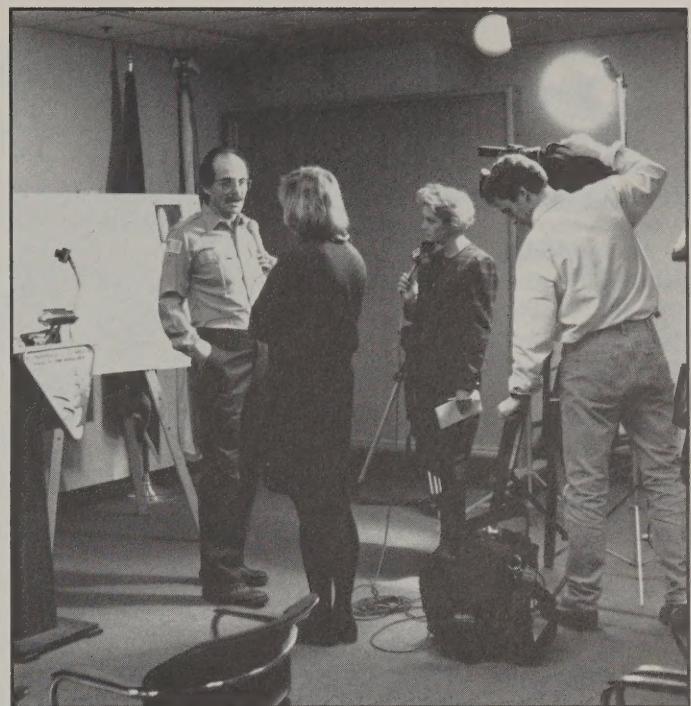
human habitation in North America.

At the D.C. press conference, archaeologist Mike Kunz of Arctic District explained the significance of the find. Reporters from CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN and a host of others, as well as national wire services and major newspapers and magazines from across the nation, attended the event. ASO archaeologist/land use planner Curtis Wilson staffed the Anchorage press conference, while Steese/White Mountains District archaeologist John Cook took the helm at the Fairbanks conference. The two were the center of attention as reporters from local television and newspapers asked questions and did on-camera interviews for about two hours.

"The site will significantly affect a lot of the current theories on the peopling of the New World," Kunz told reporters at the D.C. conference. "It changes the ideas of who the original people from Asia coming over the Bering Land Bridge into North America may have been, when they came over, and even perhaps how many different cultural groups were involved in the earliest migrations."

The site was first discovered some years ago by Kunz during a routine archaeological survey to clear the area for oil and gas exploration activities. Subsequent excavations have yielded additional artifacts, some of which were on display at the D.C. press conference. The artifacts suggests that the site belonged to the Paleoindian group of cultures—thought to be the oldest human inhabitants of North America.

The artifacts recovered indicate the area was probably a prehistoric hunting overlook. The 11,700-year-old site is atop a 200-foot-high mesa that was likely used as a lookout for large animals such as mammoth and bison. Artifacts found at the

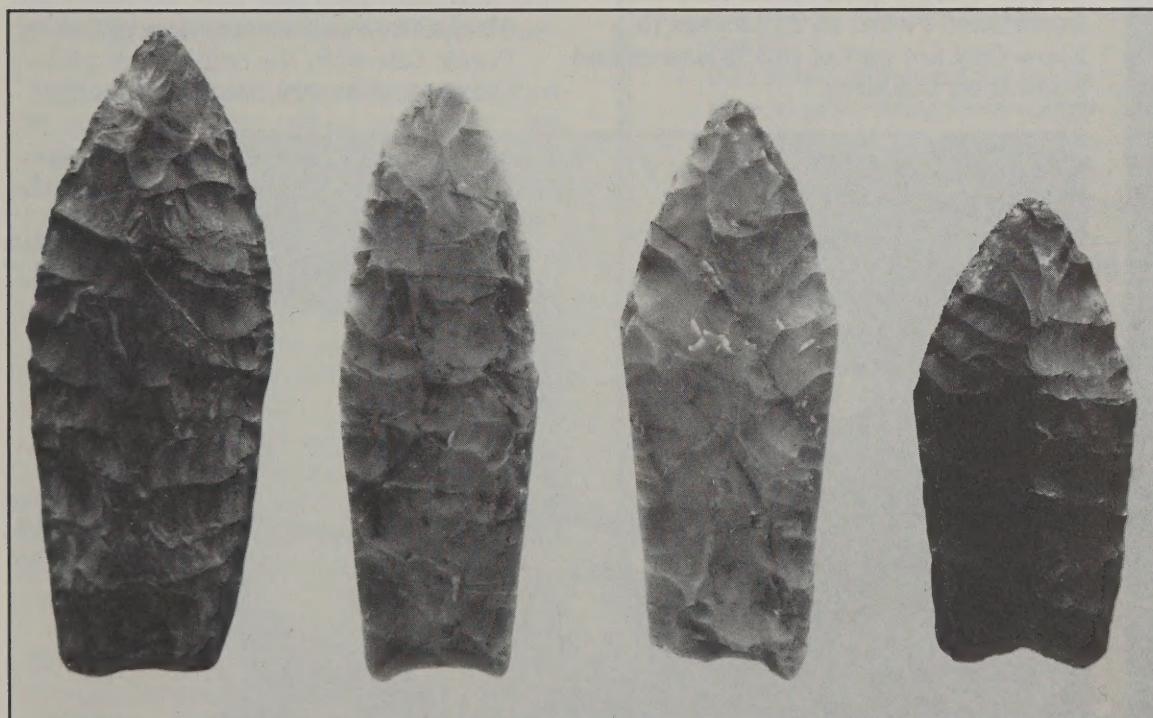


Teresa McPherson

Wilson answers questions for a reporter with KTUU-TV in Anchorage.

site included lance points, stone tools and hearth materials.

Asked how it felt to make a discovery of this magnitude, Kunz said: "It's exciting. And it's good to have these things happen now and then because we get stodgy and staid in our view of what happened. We need something like this to give us a little poke and get us thinking about new things. It's healthy for science and healthy for archaeology."



Projectile points excavated from a mesa in the Brooks Range. Archaeologists believe the points to be 11,700 years old.

# TQM in Action

**Q: What happens when a group of supervisors, land surveyors and carto techs borrow a few ideas from TQM?**  
**A: Something very impressive...**

by Ella V. Wright

At work with TQM, the Division of Cadastral Survey rides high upon waves of verbal, written and automated communication. "Our biggest improvement," said DSD George Oviatt, "has been opening channels of communication among ourselves in the division and others."

Communication begins with Oviatt. He says employees expect a manager to provide and share information. "Managers are the coaches. They are there to guide the employees through the policies, budget and politics," he said.

Ideas for TQM changes surface during cadastral's management team brainstorming meetings. Communication streams from branch chiefs, flows to section chiefs, and circulates throughout the division's work areas.

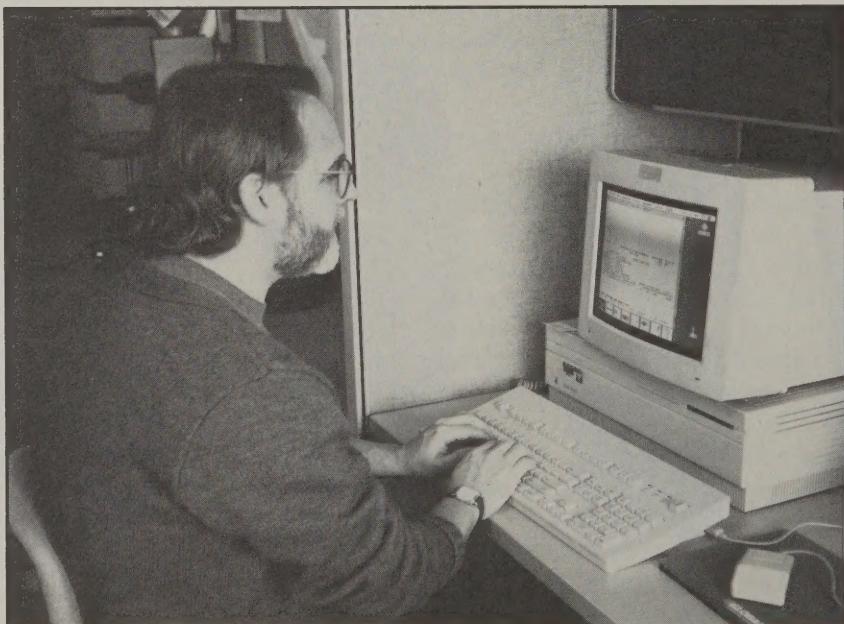
Oviatt said, "I support the division employees, work silently, let things happen and believe in the goodness of people. People need to feel they are important. I want all employees to know they are part of this business and know their business."

In December he set a course to acquaint himself with the division's 130 employees. He began scheduling 30-minute interviews to talk to individuals about their jobs, skills, job-related problems and career development. As of mid-March, he had interviewed 17 employees. One employee wanted to know "what I, as DSD, do," said Oviatt. "I invited him to follow along and see, to shadow me."

According to Oviatt, TQM means understanding our clients and their requirements, communicating to the client what we can and can't do, and making sure employees who do the work know the clients' needs.

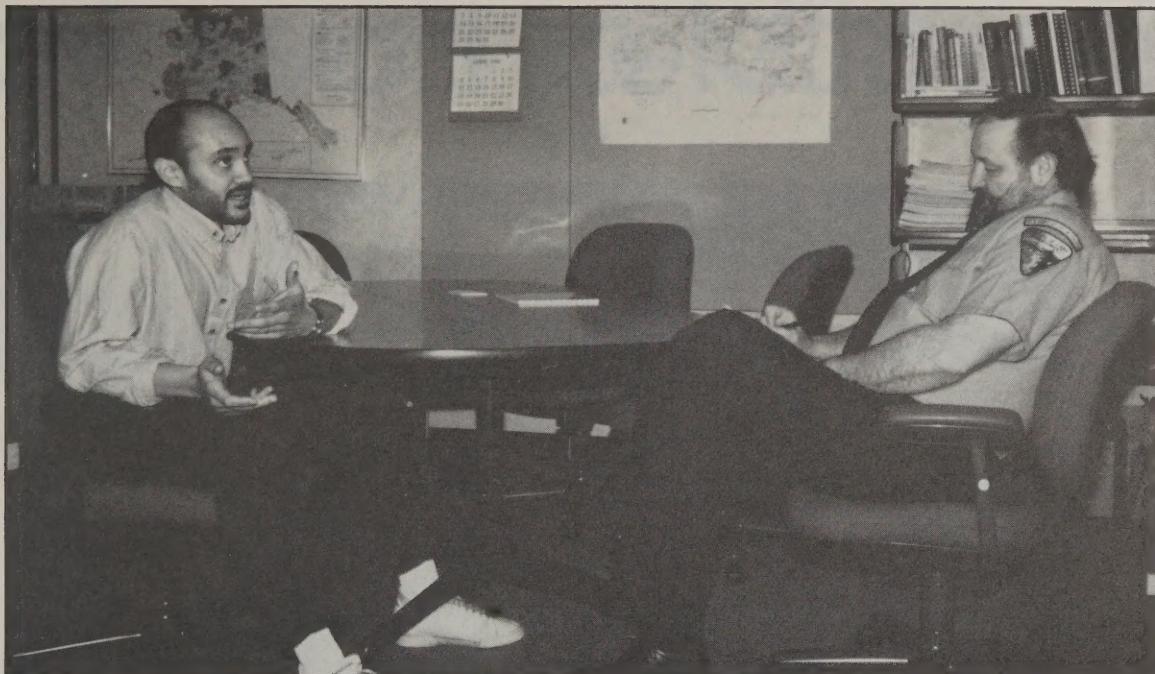
Jerry Pinkerton, branch chief of Survey Preparation, echoes this perception. "TQM is a way of looking at ourselves as producers of a product and supplying better products for clients," he said.

For example, their newest clients are Alaska Natives who can now under Public Law 638, the Indian Self Determination Act, survey lands they



After entering BLM's assigned password to access the state's computerized Land Administration System, John Sroufe selects "N301 Land Actions" and points out the latest data listed by township and range in the Seward Meridian.

Teresa McPherson



During his interview with DSD George Oviatt, photolithographer Charles Luddington explains that he was a high school co-op with BLM, studied graphic arts at the King Career Center, and was hired as a printer in BLM's print shop. Such information helps the DSD get acquainted on a one-to-one basis and learn the employee's career aspirations.

have selected. The goal of Survey Preparation is to provide a high quality product, well in advance of the time for survey, with clear and concise special instructions for survey that leave no room for misunderstanding.

One of the newest improvements in Pinkerton's branch is computer access to state surveys. John Sroufe, land surveyor, says BLM was hooked up via modem to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Land Administration System several months ago. The electronic link with DNR gives the surveyors important first-hand information.

He said, "Now anyone of our people can sit at the desk and call up state data. We can see the surveys, plats, townships, oil and gas leases, conveyances and anything important for ownership status. It helps us know before we go out on a survey and stumble over corners, where the corners are, who set them and why."

Technology has also aided the Examination and Records Branch. Negotiations were afloat for nearly a year to eliminate a major step in processing survey records. Now the Branch of Examination and the Branch of Field Surveys meet mid-stream to process drafts and final records for U.S. Surveys, 14c surveys, and railroad and townsite surveys.

Oviatt encourages such communication. He doesn't turn down employees' ideas for change, unless policies or budget dictate otherwise. "Because," he said, "from ideas come greatness."

## Cadastral's "Top Ten" TQM Improvements

1. Cadastral reorganized to help meet clients' needs more efficiently.
2. Special survey instructions prepared a year in advance for external clients.
3. DNR/BLM work group meets monthly to discuss survey issues.
4. 922 & 921 eliminated a major step in processing field survey records.
5. Land surveyor assigned to correct 922 records year round; processing time cut in half.
6. 922 and 921 determine accountable project leaders before the job.
7. Cadastral gained access to DNR's computerized land system data.
8. Field surveyors on detail in review discipline; promotes understanding with 922.
9. Two quality improvement teams brainstorm ideas for change in Platting Unit.
10. DSD meets quarterly with branches; smaller groups allow fair information exchange.

# Alaska BLMers have front row seats

Ranger Mike Billbe visits with young children in Koyuk. Billbe enjoyed the chance to meet with local residents and discuss public lands issues along the Iditarod Trail.



Dave Mobraten

Few people had a better view of the 1993 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race than four BLMers who rode with the mushers on snowmachines.

Ranger Mike Billbe and realty specialist Dave Mobraten of the Kobuk District, joined by Special Agent in Charge Dean Crabbs, met the lead mushers in Koyuk and traveled with them back to Nome. Iditarod organizers had obtained permits for the race to cross public lands and the BLMers were checking compliance.

Meanwhile, Norm Messenger, BLM's natural resource specialist at Nome, took annual leave and his own snowmachine to work as a volunteer race official. He rode with the mushers along the entire 1,100-mile trail from Anchorage to Nome.

No matter which end of the race they worked, the BLMers agreed it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Messenger, who has seen five Iditarod finishes in Nome, rode sweep behind the mushers for 600 miles and then broke trail in front of a group of 13 late-running mushers for the rest of the race. He and two other volunteers broke 400

miles of trail between Kaltag and Nome.

Messenger said the experience gave him a different perspective on the race.

"You really get to see how people react after the mushers have come and gone and all the media attention has passed. It's like you've seen the Titanic go down and now you're sitting in the lifeboat discussing the aftermath," he said.

Messenger's Iditarod work began last summer when he built 156 trail markers. The markers were placed between Solomon and White Mountain, a treacherous section of the Iditarod. Winds funneling down from the mountains can trap mushers in whiteout conditions. This year Beverly Masek and John Schandlmeier were trapped for 16 hours until race officials led them to safety.

On March 11, six days after the start of the race, Billbe, Mobraten and Crabbs left Nome for Koyuk. They reached Elim, about 70 miles east of Nome, that night and spent the next two days talking to village residents and city officials about public land issues and visiting unauthorized cabins and mining claims.



# -row seats to Iditarod '93

in the vicinity. Then they continued on to Koyuk, another 60 miles away.

At Koyuk, the race had reached a decisive point. Jeff King had just made his move, breaking away from the pack of mushers and taking a lead he was never to relinquish.

"It was exciting to see the race develop right in front of us," Mobraaten said.

Just out of White Mountain, the BLM team received a taste of the storm that was to trap Masek and Schandlmeier. A 30-mile-per-hour wind brought visibility to less than 25 yards. "We could barely see the reflectors on the tripods with our headlights," Billbe said.

Billbe said the trip served several useful purposes. It was the first time a BLM ground team had inspected the Iditarod Trail beyond White Mountain. The team also inspected unauthorized cabins, mining claims and other uses of public lands in areas that are often inaccessible in the summer. And Billbe valued the chance to reestablish contacts in the villages.

"Kids in the villages would say, 'Oh yeah, I remember you from last summer. You were handing out junior ranger badges."

-Andy Williams



At a cabin on the Iditarod Trail, Jake Schlapfer greets a sled dog and Andy Gifford checks their sled and snowmachines.

*Meanwhile at the southern end of the trail...*

**A**fter 12 hours of hauling trash, checking on mushers and muscling their snowmachines down precarious places on the Iditarod Trail, a good night's sleep was all Andy Gifford and Jake Schlapfer wanted when they pulled into the BLM's Bear Creek shelter cabin.

Forget it! The Iditarod Sled Dog Race was in full swing. The front runners were long gone but the mushers in the rear were finding the shelter cabin, about 18 miles south of Nikolai, a welcome refuge.

"We had mushers coming in at all hours tending to their dogs," says Schlapfer. For Schlapfer, an Anchorage District Office outdoor recreation planner, being on the Iditarod Trail during the race was a real treat. "I issue many permits for the Iditarod Trail, so doing compliance and getting to know the trail users was great."

For Gifford, law enforcement special agent stationed at BLM's Campbell Tract, it was business as usual. "It's important that BLM have a presence on lands we manage and let people know we are there for them."

Between March 10-15, they put 350 miles on their snowmachines traveling between Nikolai and Skwentna. They cleaned the Bear Creek shelter cabin, hauled trash to Nikolai and checked to see that mushers left the trail in an acceptable condition.

Most people aren't aware BLM manages 418 miles of the Iditarod National Historic Trail and has the lead on coordinating management activities along it. Gifford says, "I hope we can continue to do this type of work because the need is certainly there for increased safety, compliance and exposure."

-Danielle Allen



# Engineer builds dream ski resort on scenic Moose Mountain



A former World Championship acrobatic skier, BLM civil engineer Roger Evans has combined his love of the sport and his entrepreneurial skills to open a rustic ski resort near Fairbanks.

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

Cruising down the ski slope on a snowboard, spraying snow and grinning from ear to ear, Roger Evans looked like the ultimate hot dogger. It was opening day for Moose Mountain Ski Resort, and the resort's president couldn't contain his enthusiasm.

The day was the culmination of five years of coordinating investors and raising capital, filling out "borough-cratic" paperwork, and laboring to clear land and build roads. But it was a labor of love.

Evans is a civil engineer for BLM's northern region. He began his Moose Mountain dream by obtaining a purchase-option from the Fairbanks North Star Borough on 1,295 acres of undeveloped, spruce-covered hillside about 11 miles northwest of Fairbanks. "In 1962, my parents helped create Skiland, a cooperatively-owned ski area 20 miles north of Fairbanks. That gave me a practical knowledge of what was involved," Evans said. Evans is a former president of Skiland.

After considering the cost-efficiency of improvements needed at Skiland in 1988, Evans decided to look for a new ski area that was larger, closer to town and on a south-facing slope. Moose Mountain fit the bill.

Moose Mountain is the third public downhill ski resort in the Fairbanks area. Evans thinks it could become one of the largest in the state, with a possible vertical drop of 1,320 feet and more than 750 acres to ski on.

The resort may be primitive for now, but Evans plans to build more downhill ski trails, a nordic skiing park and a sled dog trail in the future. "We don't have a ski lift yet, so we're shuttling skiers to the top in a school bus," Evans



Civil engineer Roger Evans

said. "It's faster and warmer than a standard chairlift, anyway."

Evans recommends that only experienced skiers and snowboarders try Moose Mountain this year because of its rustic nature. Fellow BLMer Don Keill, featured in past *Alaska People* issues for his ski patrol work, will lead the Moose Mountain Ski Patrol.

Evans skied snow-covered slopes and wooded trails around Fairbanks while growing up. As a college student in Colorado in the late 1960s and early 1970s, he became one of the earliest "hot dog skiers" in the country. The new rage caught on and spread, eventually becoming known as freestyle skiing. Evans toured the United States, Canada and Europe in competition and demonstration skiing.

Evans was a World Championship aerial acrobatic skier at Park City, Utah, in 1974, and was named runner-up freestyle skier of the year. "When my competitors began looking too young and were out-flipping me, I went back to engineering school," Evans said.

The years keep gliding away and the ski resort dream is now reality. But Evans still dreams of adding a lodge, a restaurant, an aurora viewing center, and lighted and groomed slopes and trails. One thing is sure. He won't be doing his dreaming in his rocking chair.



## Federal women managers share recipes for success

On March 25 the Federal Women's Program Council sponsored a panel discussion which featured three women leaders from the Anchorage federal community. They were **Burdena Pasenelli**, Special Agent in Charge for the Anchorage Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the FBI's first woman field officer;

**Frances Smith**, director of the Anchorage Office of Personnel Management; and **Arlene Patton**, manager of the Anchorage office of Housing and Urban Development.

The three gave highlights of their career paths, and offered suggestions to others aspiring to higher challenges.



"If you want to enter a traditionally male-dominated field, it takes determination and hard work. These positions don't come with 8-5 hours. Be prepared to work long hours."

-Burdena Pasenelli



"Invest in yourself. Sharpen your leadership skills through professional organizations. Volunteer for special projects and assignments. And believe in what you do--that's important." -Frances Smith



"Be honest, up front, always willing to do a little more than you're required to do. Accept every challenge with an open mind. You have to be committed if you want to achieve."

-Arlene Patton

# Workwise or Otherwise

Teresa McPherson



SD Ed Spang (left) and Michael Swetzof of the Coalition of Tribal Councils.

On March 3, SD Ed Spang and Cadastral DSD George Oviatt met with representatives of the newly formed Coalition of Tribal Councils. The group discussed provisions of the Indian Self-Determination Act (P.L. 638) that authorizes Alaska Natives to contract with BLM to do cadastral surveying work on lands they have selected for entitlement. All Native surveys scheduled in FY 93 under BLM's Patent Plan Process are expected to be done by "638" contractors.

BLM continues to receive letters from individuals and organizations all across the United States and eleven foreign countries voicing their opposition to the state's "wolf control" plan. At the end of March 1993, the ASO External Affairs Office had received and responded to over 1,000 such letters. External Affairs and the Division of Lands and Renewable Resources created a form letter to enable BLM to answer the high volume of letters promptly. The letter explains that BLM is authorized to manage the habitat of Alaska's wildlife species found on the public lands, while the Alaska Department of Fish and Game manages the wildlife populations.

EEO Officer Glencora Lannen recently gave a presentation at a workforce diversity conference sponsored by the Chugach National Forest in Anchorage.

Lannen's presentation highlighted the Alaska Native Employment Network and the status of the Anchorage Civil Rights Committee, for which Lannen serves as Vice-Chair. The Native Employment Network brings together EEO officials with representatives from Alaska Native communities. The network's goal is to bring more Alaska Natives into the federal employment system.

BLM has awarded the Anchorage-based architectural firm, Livingston Slone, the architectural and engineering contract for the Campbell Creek Environmental Education Center. The firm will design an environmental education center complex on the northcentral portion of BLM Campbell Tract in Anchorage. Completion of the design is targeted for this fall and construction is slated for the spring and summer of 1994.

SD Ed Spang and AK Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Glenn Olds recently signed a memorandum of understanding—in the parking lot of the State Office Building. State personnel had been evacuated from the building because of a suspected chlorine leak. Despite the interruptions, the MOU was signed as scheduled, and should help clarify the roles and responsibilities of state and BLM personnel involved in wildfire suppression in Alaska.

## Notes from EEO...

- May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. BLM's Special Emphasis Program will be providing details about events taking place in the Asian community. Program coordinator Lynette Nakazawa will also once again be organizing the shadow program for local high school students. If you'd like more information, call Lynette at 271-3274.

- Cinco de Mayo is also occurring in May. Program coordinator Ramon Garcia-S will provide information on what community events will take place as soon as details are available. For more information, call Ramon at 271-3248.

- And lastly we've posted a new directory of EEO staff, Special Emphasis Program coordinators, and EEO Complaints Counselors. The new directories are posted at the State Office, the Anchorage Campbell Tract Facility, the Glennallen District Office, and at both BLM locations in Fairbanks.

# Applause!

## Sustained Superior Performance Award

**Jeffery Pinkerton**, Contact Representative, Cadastral Survey  
**Mary Bertini**, Contract Specialist, Administration  
**Della Grahn**, Purchasing Agent, Administration  
**Brenda Jones**, Purchasing Agent, Administration  
**Ralph Basner**, Land Law Examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Nora Benson**, Land Law Examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Betty Lockard**, Land Law Examiner, Conveyance Management  
**Sonda Juliussen**, Computer Specialist, Information Resources Management  
**Betsy Vanek**, Editorial Assistant, External Affairs  
**Kathleen Barker**, Electrical Systems Manager, Alaska Fire Service  
**Kathy Liska**, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Anchorage District Office  
**Richard Douglas**, Cartographic Technician, Operations  
**Jack Frost**, Cartographic Technician, Operations

**Special Act Award**

**Shirley Keisor**, Lead Legal Technician, Operations

## Quality Step Increase Award

**Jeffery Denton**, Subsistence Program Specialist, Anchorage District Office  
**David Kelley**, Natural Resource Specialist, Anchorage District Office  
**Judith Brubacher**, Budget Assistant, Steese/White Mountains District Office  
**Randolph Tracy**, BLM Ranger, Steese/White Mountains District Office

## On-the-Spot Cash Award

**Dorothy Tideman**, Navigable Waters Specialist, Conveyance Management  
**Malcolm McCone**, Land Surveyor, Cadastral Survey  
**Dayle Sherba**, General Biologist, Cadastral Survey  
**Kenneth Hext**, Hazardous Material Specialist, Administration

## Length of Service Award

**10-Year Service Award**  
**James Robson**, Computer Program Analyst, Information Resources Management  
**Bruce Nelson**, Forestry Technician, Alaska Fire Service  
**Rose Notti**, Personnel Assistant, Alaska Fire Service  
**Scott Sanderford**, Land Law Assistant, Conveyance Management  
**Steven Bumgarner**, Forestry Technician, Alaska Fire Service

## 20-Year Service Award

**Jay Peterson**, Supervisory Air Operations Specialist, Alaska Fire Service  
**Michael Billbe**, BLM Ranger, Kobuk District Office  
**Russell Hayes**, Supervisory Forest Technician, Alaska Fire Service

## 30-Year Service Award

**Raymond Thomas**, Deputy State Director, Information Resources Management

## Welcome Aboard

**Donna Lance**, Deputy State Director, Administration  
**Edward Wieliczkiewicz**, Office Automation Assistant, Glennallen District Office  
**Jeff Brune**, Environmental Education Specialist, Anchorage District Office  
**Roy Flemmer**, Motor Vehicle Operator, Alaska Fire Service

## Moving On

**Robert Bascle**, Geologist, Minerals  
**Jeff Wolverton**, Office Aid, Administration  
**Mary Woodward**, Space Analyst, Administration  
**Fabio Ferruzzi**, Land Surveyor, Cadastral Survey

Andy Williams



Fire management officials from BLM, the U.S. Forest Service and the State of Alaska presided over the annual spring Interagency fire operations meeting at BLM's Alaska Fire Service March 17-18. From left are Marvin Robertson, associate manager for AFS; Richard Kimberlin of the Forest Service; and Frenchie Malotte of the state's Division of Forestry.

# Where Are They Now?

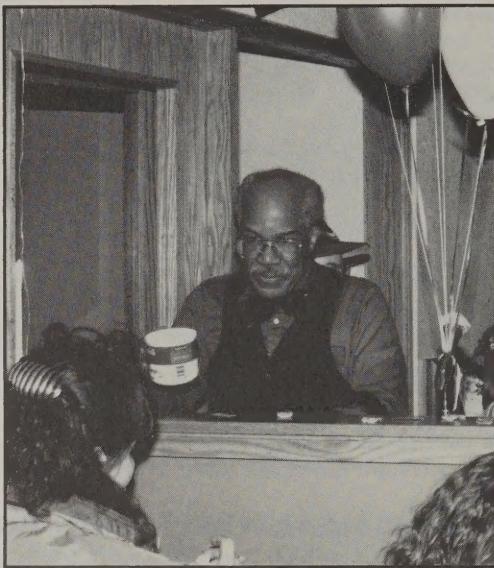
ASO computer specialist George Harper has put on a few pounds since he retired last year—a few pounds of food on the shelves of Bean's Cafe, that is.

In February Harper held his second annual "Bean-a-fit" skate party, which raised over 270 pounds of food for Bean's Cafe. Bean's provides hot meals, day shelter and referral assistance year round for Anchorage's hungry and homeless.

Harper is a night manager at Dimond Ice Chalet, where he also teaches ice skating classes for kids and adults. "It keeps me alive and in good shape," he says. "The kids are a lot of fun. The adults are, well, a little more of a challenge..."

Harper just completed a training workshop at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art. Later this spring he'll be giving tours for school groups. "My reason for volunteering is really two-fold," he explained. "It helps the museum, and it helps me. I'll have access to the museum's archives when I want to do research."

Between the ice rink and the museum, Harper plans to continue his hobby of researching the contributions of Blacks in Alaska's History. He recently updated his photo exhibit, which was displayed at Nordstrom during February to observe Black History Month.



Retired BLM computer specialist George Harper awards door prizes during a recent fundraiser for Bean's Cafe.

ALASKA PEOPLE is published monthly for the employees of the Bureau of Land Management and is distributed statewide. It is produced by the Public Affairs Staff, Alaska State Office, 222 W. 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska, 99513-7599. Phone 271-5555.

Chief - David Vickery  
Editor/Writer/design -  
Teresa McPherson  
Graphics/pasteup -  
Jim Mroczek



## On the Cover:

The BLM crew checking compliance on permits issued for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race takes a break on the trail between Nome and Koyuk. From left are Dean Crabbs, special agent in charge in Anchorage, and Dave Mabraten, realty specialist for the Kobuk District. Story on pages 6-7.

Photo by Mike Billbe.



Bureau of Land Management  
222 West 7th Avenue, #13  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

Return if not delivered in 10 days  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS/Penalty for Private Use \$300

BLM-AK-GI-017-1120-912

BLM Library  
Denver Federal Center  
Bldg. 50, OC-521  
P.O. Box 25047  
Denver, CO 80225